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A new social historian: Judy Barrett Litoff

By Bill Rupp, Editor

Judy Litoff



Judy Barrett Litoff prefers to look at history from the ground up.

That's part of the reason why she is one of America's two authorities on American midwifery. And why she is absolutely ecstatic about her newest research project: editing four years' worth of letters between a World War II GI and his wife back in the states for another book.

Litoff's interest in "bottom-up" history, as new social history is sometimes called, dates back many years. In the classroom, she always includes the "top-down" perspective. That is, looking at history from the viewpoint of leaders and influentials. But she finds the "bottom-up" approach, the perspective of the person on the street, to be a very valuable and often overlooked approach.

The associate professor's two books on American midwifery provide just such a perspective on childbirth in America, as well as serving as a bridge between the history of medicine and women. The first book, "American Midwives: 1860 to the Present," has been so successful that it has been published in paperback. The second, "The American Midwife Debate," was released several weeks ago by her publisher, Greenwood Press. The books are part of the publisher's series on medical history.

Why midwifery?

"I was looking for a topic on women's history for my dissertation," she said. "And I was six weeks pregnant at the time. It seemed like the

natural combination."

Litoff's dissertation immediately established her as an authority on post-Civil War midwifery. She updated and revised it to produce her first book, which has since opened numerous other doors for her. Litoff now is called upon often to speak on midwifery, childbirth, and women's history. The paperback is expected to be used as a supplementary text for courses on women's history and health.

Despite her 15-year interest in midwifery and the notoriety it has brought her, Litoff said: "I am putting midwifery aside for awhile."

Her new focus is the war letters, which her aunt and uncle composed as 18 to 21 year olds during the Second World War. Together, they wrote more than 4,500 typewritten pages over a period from August, 1941 to November, 1945. Litoff is editing them with a colleague from the University of Maine, where she earned her Ph.D.

The letters are truly a look at the war from the bottom up, she said. They are the intimate thoughts and observations of a young enlisted man in the European trenches and his bride back home, waiting for his return. The letters are particularly valuable, she said, because "we have his and her letters. Most GIs did not save their letters from home, because they were difficult to carry with them. My uncle saved them, packaged them, and sent them back home. My aunt put them all in boxes."

Those boxes now fill up Litoff's home. Other GI-written letters, from people who discover her project, also are filling her home's nooks and crannies. Her aunt introduced Litoff to the letters while she was retyping them to give to her children.

"She just wanted her children to have them,"

President says 'thanks'

By Dr. William T. O'Hara
President

Secretaries' Week (April 21-26) is a time we pause to give special recognition to the essential contributions made every day by the College's support staff.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to each of you for your loyalty and dedication. It is commitment like that of the secretarial and clerical staffs that makes Bryant the educational leader it is today.

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Debate to focus on religious fundamentalism

"Religious Fundamentalism vs. Secular Humanism."

That is the issue to be debated by a former Moral Majority spokesman and an international scholar and magazine editor at the final public forum of Bryant's God and government series Wednesday evening.

Calvin Thomas, former vice-president and national spokesman for Jerry Falwell's conservative political organization, squares off against Dr. Paul Kurtz, professor of philosophy at SUNY-Buffalo and editor of *Free Inquiry* magazine. The debate begins at 7 p.m. in Janikies Auditorium. It will be moderated by Sara Wye, a correspondent for WJAR-TV (Channel 10).

Until last year, Thomas was an official for Moral Majority, which has been credited with electing a host of conservative candidates in the 1980 elections. He is now a syndicated columnist for the *Los Angeles Times*, working out of Lynchburg, Virginia.

An award-winning broadcaster, Thomas has worked for NBC radio and television news and KPRC-TV in Houston. Thomas also helped to found International Media Service, the only daily broadcast news service for Christian radio stations. He is the author of several books, including "Evangelism: A Freedom Dream"; "Public Personal and Private Lives," and "Book Burning."

As a leading scholar, Kurtz has appeared on numerous TV and radio shows and has authored and edited a variety of papers, magazines, and books, including "In Defense of Secular



Paul Kurtz

Humanism" and "Humanist Manifesto II." *Free Inquiry* is published by the Council for Democratic and Secular Humanism.

Kurtz holds degrees from New York University and Columbia University, and has taught also at Vassar, Trinity, Union, and Queens Colleges; City University of New York, and New School for Social Research. He is director of the International Humanist and Ethical Union, and founding chairman of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal.

Bryant is funding the God and government series along with the Rhode Island Committee for the Humanities (RICH), a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

VIPs lunch on campus



Another group of senior executives from Rhode Island visited Bryant in late February as part of the ongoing corporate outreach program. The visit included lunch with President O'Hara and other College officials and a campus tour. Shown here with the President and George de Tarnowsky are (left to right) Robert C. Smith, president of Narragansett Electric; Paul LaBreche, publisher of the *Woonsocket Call*; Phillip Segal, president of Almacs; Barry Pickell, senior vice-president of Old Stone Bank; John Wall, vice-chairman of the board of Rhode Island Hospital Trust, and Stanton Lyslo, vice-president of Automobile Insurance Plan Service Office (AIPSO).

'Audit Your Health' tomorrow

Tomorrow can be very rewarding for your health.

That's the day of Bryant's annual health fair, to run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Room 386 A&B.

Among the free health tests to be offered are height and weight, blood pressure, vision screening, hearing, posture analysis, nutrition, cholesterol, stress management, and chemical dependency. Optional blood chemistry and coronary risk tests also will be offered for a fee.

Health care professionals will interpret test results and offer counseling.

How business, art mix tour topic

A special "behind-the-scenes" tour of the Rhode Island School of Design Museum on Wednesday will show that business and art do mix.

The tour is open to the Bryant community. It will be led by Frank Robinson, museum director, who will discuss the relationship of business and art and the ways they need each other.

A bus leaves the circle at 3 p.m., with the tour running until 5 p.m. The bus returns to campus at approximately 5:30 p.m. Contact Judy Litoff for more information.

Graduate school holds second awards dinner

Bryant's Graduate School held its second annual Alumni Awards Dinner Dance on April 5, highlighted by the recognition of its 1986 "Businessperson of the Year."

Anthony T. Allegetti '58, '84 MTS, managing partner of the accounting firm of Allegetti Major

Litoff

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Litoff said, "I told her 'we have to do something with them'."

Litoff said she is taking a sabbatical next year to work on the project. She envisions a one-of-a-kind book coming out of this, one that definitely provides a bottom-up look at the history of that time period.

Litoff is a popular teacher on campus, particularly because of the course on Vietnam she teaches in tandem with Bill Hill, who shares an office with her.

"There has been tremendous student interest," she says.

The team-taught course is believed to be the first of its kind at Bryant. She hopes to try similar teaching arrangements in the future.

Litoff said her interest in history goes back to junior high school.

"An eighth-grade history paper I wrote won an award," she said. "It started me in this direction."

Litoff initially expected to teach high school history. She changed her mind in college and decided instead simply to major in history, with no career goal in sight. Her professors at Emory University "encouraged me to enter an honors program that led right into an advanced degree program." Given the conservatism of that Atlanta school, she said, she found their interest in her to be quite enlightening. The rest of the story, as they say, is history.

Litoff met her husband, Hal, at Emory. A New Englander, he brought her here in the early 1970s. She came to Bryant in 1975, straight from graduate school. Since that time, she has become very active in Rhode Island.

Among her spare-time activities are serving as a member of the Rhode Island Committee for the Humanities, as a Girl Scout leader, and as an overseer for Lincoln and Moses Brown schools. And she can't seem to get in enough downhill skiing, a sport she took up five years ago. She and Hal also like to hike the White Mountains in the summer.

"I sometimes think I'm a little over-extended," she said.

Perhaps, but Litoff's activities surely give her a perspective that is valuable to a new social historian.

and Company of Providence, received the award at The Coachmen in Tiverton.

Also receiving awards were faculty members who have taught in the graduate school for more than five and more than 10 years. And members of the 1986 M.B.A. class who have been admitted to the honor society for business, Delta Mu Delta.

Allegetti, a C.P.A. since 1961, has been managing partner of the firm since 1967. He began his career with Blackman & Blackman, of Providence, in 1959, and is currently enrolled in Bryant's certificate of advanced graduate studies program.

A Lincoln resident, Allegetti has been active in a variety of community affairs, including the North Providence Little League and Babe Ruth League, the Lincoln Rotary Club, and the Rhode Island Society and American Institute of CPAs.

Five-year faculty members are Fred Jaquith, instructor of finance and Jeffrey Wright, assistant professor of economics. Ten-year members include George de Tarnowsky, acting dean of instruction; Charles Quigley, associate professor of marketing; and John Williams, associate professor of management.

It's teeter-tottering time

Tau Epsilon Phi sets up its teeter-totter again tomorrow and Wednesday to raise money for the City of Hope medical center and research institute.

The 24-hour "teeter-totterathon" begins at noon in the Rotunda and continues into the evening, when it moves to another location for the night. It returns to the Rotunda Wednesday morning.

The money raised by the brothers taking turns on the teeter-totter will provide care for patients with disorders such as cancer, heart disease, diabetes, lupus, blood and lung disorders, and other hereditary illnesses. TEP raised more than \$1,100 last year, and expects to exceed that amount this year.

All that jazz

Jazz! Jazz! Jazz!

That's what the Faculty Federation is bringing back to Bryant on April 30.

For years, jazz concerts were an annual spring-time event at Bryant, drawing audiences of 2,000 and more. The idea behind the concerts was to acquaint students with jazz as part of America's culture and history.

This year's concert will feature Duke Belaire and his 16-piece band in the Rotunda from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. Then Tony Tomasso and his Jewels of Dixieland will play in the Koffler Center from 7 to 10 p.m.

The "gift of jazz" is being arranged by jazz enthusiast Burt Fischman, professor of communications.

QUICKLY

...**Ron DiBattista**, assistant professor of management, presented a paper in mid-March at the Association for Business Simulation and Experiential Learning Conference in Reno. It is titled "Using a Business Simulation in the Principles of Management Course—Learning Outcomes and Perceptions"...

...The March issue of the "Journal of Economic Literature" carries an article by **Pat Norton**, Sarkisian professor of business economics; it is titled "Industrial Policy and American Renewal." Also, since mid-February, Norton has spoken to four organizations: Rhode Island Realtors' Association; Aquidneck Goals Committee; Society of Real Estate Appraisers; Institute of Real Estate Management. And he has chaired a session at an Ohio industrial policy and economic development conference at Kent State University...

...**Margaretta Edwards**, manager of the SBDC's Providence office, is a new member of the policy board of the Regional Laboratory for Educational Improvement, a five-year federal program designed to link schools with educational "R&D" and validated programs in New England, the Middle Atlantic states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands...

...Alumni Jane Zetner-Mahler '79 and Paul Connery '81 spoke to institutional management majors as part of the **career service** office's "Careers in...Hospitality" seminar in late March. They explained their positions as sales coordinator for a restaurant and assistant general manager for a motel, respectively...

CALENDAR

Student Leadership Week begins
sponsored by Office of Student
Activities

Management Skills for Buyers

Seminar
The CENTER
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Men's Tennis
vs. Bentley College
Home

3 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 15

Income Tax Deadline

Teeter-totterathon

by Tau Epsilon Phi
Rotunda

Health Fair

Room 386 A&B
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16

Men's Tennis

vs. SMU
Home

3 p.m.

Softball

vs. Dowling College
Home

3 p.m.

Baseball

vs. Stonehill College
Home

3 p.m.

God and Government Series
"Religious Fundamentalism"
vs. Secular Humanism"

Janikies Auditorium
7 - 8:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 17

Men's Tennis

vs. AIC
Home

3 p.m.

Audio-Visual Aids
Selection and Use

Seminar
The CENTER

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 18

Bryant Players present
"Godspell"

Janikies Auditorium

8 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

Softball
vs. Bentley College
1 p.m.

Bryant Players present
"Godspell"
Janikies Auditorium
8 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 20

Eucharist
CMD Conference Room 4
Noon & 9 p.m.

Protestant service
MRC Conference Room 1
Noon & 9 p.m.

Bryant Players present
"Godspell"
Janikies Auditorium
2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

Men's Tennis
vs. Suffolk University
Home
3 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 24

Negotiating Skills for Buyers
Seminar
The CENTER
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

SPB concert
The ALARM
Gymnasium
9 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 27

Eucharist
CMD Conference Room 4
Noon & 9 p.m.

Protestant service
MRC Conference Room 1
Noon & 9 p.m.

Players to perform 'Godspell'

"A fidgety, color-splattered, jubilant and most enjoyable new rock musical."

This was one critic's impression of the original "Godspell," which opened on Broadway in 1971. The Bryant Players version will be presented in

Janikies Auditorium on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Curtain time is 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 2 and 7:30 p.m. on Sunday.

"Godspell" is a musical based on the Gospel according to St. Matthew and deals with the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. It takes a whimsical view of Jesus who, among other things, wears a Superman shirt. His followers and disciples reenact parables and scenes from Jesus' life.

The Bryant Players are a student troupe who present two performances annually.

Admission is \$5; \$3 for students. Tickets are on sale at the Box Office.

By the way...

By Gloria Yahn
Assistant Editor

- Ray Fogarty, assistant director of the SBDC, was recently elected president of the Gloucester Lions Club for 1986-87. Congratulations Ray — someone's got to keep those lions tame.
- Bill Sweeney, economics professor, tells me he was interviewed by Channel 12 (WPRI-TV) at his home recently. Bill commented on the impact of falling oil prices on the U.S. economy.
- Liz O'Neil, assistant director of publications, returned this week after an eight-day vacation on St. Maarten. Her husband, Joe, who is with Wayne Distributors, was named salesman of the year. This was the second vacation the O'Neils have won. Paris was their first.
- Sophomore David Penn was recently elected "senator of the year." David was selected because of his outstanding job as chairman of the public relations committee. Working in the public information office must have helped, huh Dave? Good going!

Federation raises scholarship funds



The Bryant Faculty Federation presented in early March a check for \$1,500 to establish the first federation scholarship fund at the College. Money was raised through a dinner dance, and is expected to go to two or three students. The federation plans to raise scholarship funds each year. Making the presentation to President O'Hara was Joe Ilacqua, federation president; Kathy Simon, treasurer, and Pat Keeley, vice-president.